

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 4-7, and 10-13 are amended. No new matter is added. Claims 1, 4-7, and 10-13 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1, 4-7 and 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0208608 to Tager et al. (hereinafter "Tager"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,931,176 to Kelly ("Kelly"), *Optical Networks: A Practical Perspective, 2nd Edition* by Ramaswami et al. ("Ramaswami") and U.S. Patent No. 6,433,923 to Tanaka et al. ("Tanaka").

Independent claim 1 is amended herewith to recite that the claimed method further includes "a third dispersion compensation step of performing a dispersion compensation with additional compensation amounts to dispersions at optical reception sections each of which performs a reception process for one of demultiplexed optical signals whose dispersion values of the wavelengths have been optimally compensated for by fine-tunable variable dispersion compensators respectively." The claim amendments are supported by the originally filed specification, for example, page 27, line 6 to page 28, line 12, and page 47, line 12, to page 48 line 11.

Tager discloses dispersion compensation measures (DCMs) 113A-113E in FIG. 2B that are section band pre- and post-compensators (see paragraph [0031] of Tager) applied to a dispersion section between nodes. Further Tager discloses an exact compensation scheme (FIG. 3), an under-compensation scheme (FIG. 4), and a sectionalized dispersion compensation scheme (FIG. 5).

Kelly discloses apparatuses and methods for chromatic dispersion compensation of wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) optical signals within an optical add/drop multiplexer (OADM) (see Kelly's Abstract, claims).

Ramaswami discloses three OADM architectures in FIG. 7.5 and compares their features in Table 7.1.

Tanaka discloses a wavelength dispersion map for an optical communication system in which the dispersion in a dispersion shifted fiber (DSF) is set to -1.8 ps/nm/km, the wavelength dispersion in a dispersion compensating fiber (DCF) is set to 18 ps/nm/km for the center

wavelength distribution in the signal beam wavelength, the transmission distance is 10,000 km, the transmission distance of one block of DSF is set to 700 km and the transmission distance of one section of DCF is set to 76 km.

However, the cited prior art references alone and in combination fail to render obvious the newly added feature. At least for this reason, amended independent claim 1 and claims 4-6 depending from claim 1 are patentable.

Independent claim 7 is amended herewith to recite additional features similar to amended claim 1. Amended independent claim 7 and claims 10-12 depending from claim 7 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art references at least because the following feature of claim 7 is not rendered obvious by the prior art:

a third dispersion compensation section for performing a dispersion compensation with additional compensation amounts to dispersions at optical reception sections each of which performs a reception process for one of demultiplexed optical signals whose dispersion values of the wavelengths have been optimally compensated for by fine-tunable variable dispersion compensators respectively.

Amended independent claim 13, which is amended to recite features similar to amended claim 1, patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art at least by reciting:

performing a third dispersion compensation using a dispersion compensation having additional compensation amounts to dispersions at optical reception sections each of which performs a reception process for one of demultiplexed optical signals whose dispersion values of the wavelengths have been optimally compensated for by fine-tunable variable dispersion compensators respectively.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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